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LIMITED SERIES
4 of 4

TOBIN
MIYAZAWA
GANDINI

BLACK WIDOW®
& THE MARVEL GIRLS

NEW YORK CITY. NOW.

MUCH HARDER! MAKE IT REALLY RAIN!

IT IS DIFFICULT TO CONTROL THE *FURY* OF A STORM! IF I FOCUS MUCH MORE POWER, THIS NEIGHBORHOOD, AT THE VERY LEAST, WILL BE *ENGULFED!*

AS MUCH *RAIN* AS YOU *DARE*, THEN!

STRONGER! RAIN! MORE RAIN!

AHHH... *THERE* WE GO.

I *KNEW* THAT WOULD BRING THEM OUT.

The ultimate Russian spy and occasional super hero, Natasha Romanov is an expert in dealing with the unexpected.

BLACK WIDOW

A former refugee, Ororo Munroe uses her mutant weather powers to help the world.

STORM

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THIRTY-SIX HOURS AGO.

VIOLENT GANG TASK FORCE

LINA TRESTLE
DIRECTOR

EXACTLY WHAT IS THE PROBLEM, AND WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'M THE SOLUTION?

I'LL BE *HONEST* WITH YOU. I'M IN OVER MY HEAD WITH THIS LATEST GANG WAR, AND *TONY STARK* TOLD ME YOU'RE A WOMAN WHO *FINDS SOLUTIONS.*

A GANG WAR?

THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL DEATHS. SO FAR IT'S CONFINED TO KNOWN CRIMINALS, BUT I'M WORRIED IT COULD SPILL OVER INTO THE GENERAL POPULACE.

BEYOND THE DEATHS, THERE ARE SEVERAL *MISSING PERSONS* RELATED TO THIS LATEST GANG ACTION.

IT'S MY OPINION THAT MOST OF THE MISSING ARE *DEAD*, AND THAT WE HAVEN'T *FOUND* THEM *YET*, OR THAT WE'LL *NEVER* FIND THEM.

AND THE *REST* OF THE MISSING?

KIDNAPPED. BY THE *CAPS*. FOR POLITICAL REASONS.

PRESSURING *US* TO KEEP A BLIND EYE TOWARDS THIS ONGOING WAR.

INTERESTING. SO, THAT POTENTIAL PRESSURE, PLUS THE FACT THAT YOU OBVIOUSLY WANT IT KEPT *QUIET*, MEANS SOMEBODY *IMPORTANT* HAS BEEN KIDNAPPED.

NOW...CAN SOMEBODY TELL ME WHY *STORM* IS SITTING IN A CHAIR, *SCOWLING* LIKE SHE'S ABOUT TO *SHOOT LIGHTNING?*

VIOLENT GANG TASK FORCE
LINA TRESTLE
DIRECTOR

CERTAINLY.

THIS GANG WAR BEGAN WHEN ***CEDRIC CEDRINO*** WAS DISGRACED AND OUSTED FROM ***BERTO TORINO'S*** CRIME FAMILY.

THEY JUST KICKED HIM OUT? NOTHING MORE... ***PERMANENT?***

THERE WAS A CONTRACT OUT ON HIM, YES. BUT CEDRIC WENT INTO ***HIDING. MISSING*** FOR NEARLY ***SEVEN MONTHS.***

THEN, HE WAS SUDDENLY ***BACK,*** AND ***NOT*** ALONE. HE NOW HAS A SMALL ARMY AT HIS COMMAND.

A ***RUTHLESS*** ARMY KNOWN AS THE CAPS, WHO HAVE ***MURDERED*** AT LEAST FOUR MEMBERS OF THE ***TORINO*** CRIME FAMILY.

THEN THERE ARE THE ***KIDNAPPINGS.*** THE FIRST WAS FORMER ***SENATOR JAMES ONYANGO,*** WHO WAS TAKEN ALONG WITH HIS AIDE WHEN THEY WERE TOURING A PARK DEVELOPMENT.

SENATOR ONYANGO WAS TAKEN?

YES. HE IS A ***GOOD*** MAN, AND SET TO BE AMERICA'S NEXT ***AMBASSADOR*** TO ***KENYA.*** WE ***NEED*** HIM BACK ALIVE. ***KENYA*** NEEDS HIM.

UNTIL HE'S ***SAFE,*** WE DON'T ***DARE*** LAUNCH ANY FULL-SCALE ATTACKS AGAINST THE CAPS. WHAT WE NEED IS A ***PINPOINT*** STRIKE TO FREE THE SENATOR.

WE NEED *EXPERT* HELP LIKE YOURS. AND WE'RE ALSO BRINGING IN A MAN WHO IS *FAMILIAR* WITH THE CAPS... SOMEONE WHO HAS SOME *INFLUENCE* OVER THEM.

WE HAVE A *STORM GODDESS.* WHO ELSE COULD WE *POSSIBLY* NEED?

TO BE HONEST... I HAVEN'T LET YOU KNOW THE *WHOLE* STORY. THE CAPS ARE *MORE* THAN JUST ANOTHER *GANG.* THEY'RE AN *UNDER-GROUND* GANG.

ALL GANGS ARE *UNDERGROUND.* BY THE VERY *NATURE* OF THEIR *ILLEGAL* ACTIVITIES, THEY--

SHE MEANS *LITERALLY* UNDER-GROUND.

THE *MOLE MAN?!*

ARE YOU *ACTUALLY* EXPECTING US TO *WORK* WITH A MAN WHO--

OH YES. *DO* GO ON! TALK ABOUT WHAT A *CRIMINAL* I AM!

SIMPLIFY ME INTO SOME *MADMAN* WHO RAGES ABOUT *WARS WITH THE SURFACE WORLD!* CONVENIENTLY *FORGET* HOW IT IS *YOU* PEOPLE CONSISTENTLY ATTACKING *ME!*

DRILLING FOR *OIL! EXCAVATING* FOR *MINERALS!* EVEN *BURYING TOXIC WASTES!* ALL OF IT IN *MY* WORLD!

BUT SINCE YOU CAN'T *SEE* IT, IT'S *MEANINGLESS* WHAT GOES ON *BELOW*, ISN'T IT?

GO AHEAD... SAY THAT YOU DON'T *CARE* ABOUT *MY* WORLD. LET'S JUST HAVE *THAT* OUT IN THE OPEN!

SO...HOW CAN YOU *HELP* WITH THIS GANG WAR?

CHANGING THE SUBJECT, ARE WE? *NICE.*

BUT I *AM* HERE ON *BUSINESS*, AND HAVE SCANT TIME TO WASTE WITH *LECTURES*, SO, *YES*...LET'S BE ON ABOUT THIS *GANG WAR*, SHALL WE?

THE *CAPS*, I'M AFRAID, ARE ACTUALLY *ROGUE MOLOIDS*...MEMBERS OF AN ANCIENT SUBTERRANEAN RACE THAT HAVE BEGUN TO BE *CORRUPTED* BY *SURFACE INFLUENCE*.

WHEN CEDRIC CEDRINO WAS DRIVEN OUT OF THE TORINO FAMILY, HE FLED IN FEAR OF HIS LIFE, AND EVENTUALLY FOUND *MY* UNDERGROUND KINGDOM.

THERE, HE MANAGED TO *SURVIVE*, AND EVENTUALLY EVEN TO *MOBILIZE* A LARGE NUMBER OF *MOLOID OUTCASTS*, FORMING THEM INTO THE GANG THAT NOW PROWLS YOUR NEW YORK CITY.

CEDRIC IS SPECIFICALLY USING THEM TO TAKE OVER *TORINO* TERRITORY, SETTLING THE SCORE.

I SHOULD BE ABLE TO CONVINCE THE CAPS TO RETURN HOME.

AFTER ALL, AS THE *MOLE MAN*, I *AM* THEIR *RIGHTFUL KING*...THOUGH THE TWO OF *YOU* MAY CALL ME *HARVEY*. HARVEY ELDER.

AND YOU MAY CALL *ME* THE *BLACK WIDOW*.

I AM *STORM*, AND I MUST ASK, WHAT DO YOU *GAIN* FROM ALL THIS? WHY ARE *YOU* HELPING?

SUBWAY RIGHTS.

WHAT? A *YEAR'S PASS* ON THE *SUBWAY*?

HIS HIGHNESS WILL HAVE NEW YORK'S COOPERATION IN *NOT* CONSTRUCTING NEW SUBWAY TUNNELS IN CERTAIN AREAS.

TWELVE HOURS AGO.

YOU'RE PRACTICALLY *BEAMING.* STILL *PREENING* OVER BEING CALLED *YOUR HIGHNESS* YESTERDAY?

CAN'T A *MAN* JUST BE *HAPPY* STROLLING WITH TWO LOVELY WOMEN?

FOR ALL ITS *GRANDEUR* AND *BEAUTY,* MY UNDERGROUND KINGDOM HAS NEITHER THIS PARK'S ABUNDANT PLANT LIFE, NOR LADIES AS *ARTISTIC* AS THE TWO OF YOU.

ARTISTIC?

STORM, *PLEASE* DON'T ENCOURAGE HIM TO CONTINUE.

WHAT *ELSE* SHOULD WE SPEAK OF, THEN? CARE TO TELL US WHERE WE'RE GOING?

WE'RE *HERE,* ACTUALLY. THE CORE OF *BERTO TORINO'S* OPERATIONS.

ONE WAY

I MADE SOMETHING OF AN APPOINTMENT LAST NIGHT.

LET ME TRY THIS AGAIN.

WOULD YOU *PLEASE* LET BERTO TORINO KNOW THAT I WILL WISH TO SPEAK WITH HIM TOMORROW?

STILL, CONSIDERING ALL THAT'S BEEN GOING ON LATELY, *AND* WITH TWO SUPER HEROES AND THE *MOLE MAN* ON SITE, TORINO IS LIKELY TO BE TENSE.

I BELIEVE THAT SHE IS TELLING YOU TO BE *DIPLOMATIC.*

NO. I AM TELLING HIM TO *KEEP HIS MOUTH SHUT.*

BLACK WIDOW. YOU, WE'RE EXPECTING.

WHO'S THE HOBBIT?

ZZZAKKT

UGGGGGG!

OH, HARVEY.

WE TRIED DIPLOMACY, AND THEY INSULTED US! NOW WE TRY FORCE!

TWEEEEEEEE

DO WE PLAY IT HIS WAY?

TOO LATE FOR OTHER GAMES, NOW!

HARVEY! TELL YOUR CREATURES NOT TO KILL ANYONE!

THEY ALREADY KNOW. I'VE TOLD THEM THIS IS A DIPLOMATIC MISSION.

FREEZE!

OKAY. I'M A LITTLE IMPRESSED.

DOWN!

TPHTT TPHTT TPHTT TPHTT TPHTT

UNNFFF!

THWUNNCH

TCHASSH

ALSO VERY NICE. WE WORK WELL TOGETHER.

HOW'S HARVEY DOING?

HA HA HA! YES! YES!

ZZZZAKKT

KWUMPT

UNHHH!

HA HA HA HA! OH, WHAT A *VERY FINE CAKE* WE'VE MADE! WHAT A *GRAND RECIPE!*

JUST ADD IN THE *PROPER INGREDIENTS*, LIKE A *STORM GODDESS*, A *SLEEK LITTLE SPY*, THE *MANIAC* FROM THE *MUD*, AND THE ADDED *SPICE* OF *QUITE A FEW MEN* WITH *GUNS!*

STOP!

WHAT IS THIS *CHILDISHNESS?* YOU GAVE WORD THAT YOU WANTED TO *TALK*, NOT *BRAWL.*

BERTO TORINO, I TAKE IT?

ABSOLUTELY. AND *YOU* ARE THE *BLACK WIDOW.* AND *YOU* ARE *STORM.*

I HAVE MUCH ATTRACTION TO YOU *BOTH*, BUT DO NOT HAVE WORRIES...I AM AN *OLD* AND *HARMLESS* MAN.

AND YOU...AN *AMAZING* DISPLAY OF FIGHTING, MY FRIEND! IF *MY* MEN HAD *HALF* YOUR *SKILL* AND *AUDACITY*, THIS *CITY* WOULD BE MINE!

DO I HAVE THE *HONOR* OF MEETING THE LEGENDARY *MOLE MAN?*

YOU... CAN CALL ME *HARVEY.*

THESE PEOPLE ARE MY *GUESTS.* LET US TREAT THEM WITH *DIGNITY* AND *RESPECT*, IN SPITE OF THE WAY THEY'VE DESTROYED A FAIR AMOUNT OF MY *FOYER.*

I SUPPOSE THAT'S THE WAY OF *WOMEN* THOUGH, EH, HARVEY?

THEY *ARE* TEMPERAMENTAL.

THESE ARE *YOURS*, I AM ASSUMING?

MY *MOLOIDS*, YES. DEFINITELY NOT *CAPS*...IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE ASKING.

ANY POSSIBILITY OF LEAVING THEM BEHIND WHILE WE TALK?

FINE. FINE.

WHERE ARE YOU TAKING US?

WHEN YOU MADE YOUR APPOINTMENT, I KNEW IT WAS ABOUT THE *CAPS* WAR, AND THAT YOU WOULD BE REQUESTING INFORMATION.

AND, AS I TRY TO *ACCOMMODATE* BEAUTIFUL WOMEN WHO COULD QUITE PROBABLY *DESTROY* ME--

I PREPARED IN ADVANCE.

THIS IS... *EXHAUSTIVE.*

WARS ARE *EXHAUSTING*. *SOLDIERS* HAVE TO DO THEIR *WORK*.

THIS *MAP*...IS IT--?

IT'S A *BREAKDOWN* OF WHERE EACH OF THE CAPS' ATTACKS ON MY MEN HAS TAKEN PLACE. WE'RE HAVING A *DIFFICULT* TIME PREDICTING THEM, BECAUSE THEY--

--COME FROM THE *GROUND*, OR THE *SEWERS*, OF COURSE.

AND NOW I KNOW *WHERE*.

FIFTEEN MINUTES AGO.

WHY HERE?

LIKE YOUR SURFACE WORLD, MY UNDERWORLD KINGDOM HAS ESTABLISHED ROADS, PATHWAYS, TUNNELS.

AND JUST LIKE YOUR SUNNY LITTLE WORLD, THESE ROADS HAVE JUNCTIONS AND ARTERIES.

EACH OF THE ATTACK SITES ON BERTO TORINO'S MAP STEM FROM ONE CENTRAL LOCATION.

THIS ONE.

IT'S JUST DIRT HERE.

WE'RE HERE ON A BAD NIGHT. IT'S SO BRIGHT OUT THAT--

LET ME PULL THE SHADES.

GOOD IDEA.

NOW... MAKE IT RAIN.

HEE HEE HEE. RAIN! GOOD IDEA!

RAIN! RAIN!

NOW.

HARVEY, CAN YOU *CONTROL* THEM?

NO CHANCE. THESE ARE *RENEGADES.* UNTIL WE DEFEAT THEIR *CULT LEADER,* CEDRIC, THEY WON'T GIVE ME MY *PROPER* RESPECT.

LUCKILY, IF A MAN ISN'T *GIVEN* RESPECT--

--HE CAN TAKE IT! HAHAHA!

ZZRAAKT

ORORO! I'LL TAKE THE GROUP ON--

NO. I AM *STORM.* THEY ARE ON *OPEN* GROUND. *BENEATH* THE *NIGHT SKY.*

THIS IS MY REALM.

THEY'RE *RUNNING!*

THAT'S WHAT WE *WANT!*

WE NEED TO *FOLLOW* THEM! SEE THE *EXACT* ROUTES THEY'RE USING!

PLEASE STEP BACK.

THE TUNNEL ENTRANCE IS TOO *SMALL.* WE NEED TO DIG UP SOME OF THAT--

BRRR

WE'RE ALMOST THERE.

HOW CAN YOU TELL?

HUM OF VOICES. *SMELL* OF FLESH. *VIBRATIONS* IN THE ROCKS AND SOIL. WE OF THE *DARKNESS* BECOME MUCH MORE ATTUNED TO SUCH THINGS.

WE OF THE *DARKNESS*?

MY PEOPLE.

WHO ARE...?

AHHH. THE *MOLE MAN*. I *KNEW* WE'D EVENTUALLY MEET.

QUITE INEVITABLE, CEDRIC. YOU ARE *TRESPASSING* IN MY *KINGDOM*.

YOUR KINGDOM? YOU'RE LIVING IN THE *PAST*. THESE MOLOIDS ARE *MINE* NOW.

YOU ARE A *FAD* TO THEM. I AM THEIR *DESTINY*.

THERE'S SENATOR ONYANGO!

AND THE OTHERS, YES. I'M GOING TO *FREE* THEM. YOU HOLD THE CAPS AT BAY UNTIL WE CAN MAKE OUR *ESCAPE*.

IS THAT WISE?

WE HAVE NO *CHOICE*. OUR *RUNT* WILL LOSE HIS *TEMPER* SOON.

SSSSZZZT

SSSSZZZT

SSSSZZZT

WE MIGHT AS WELL TAKE THE INITIATIVE.

TTSSSHAASSSSH

WHAT?

ATTACK! ATTACK! DESTROY THEM!

OH, GOOD! THE FIGHT IS HERE!

STORM! COVER ME! I'M GOING FOR THE SENATOR!

BACLANG!

GET US OUT!

SENATOR ONYANGO... I AM HERE FOR YOU.

THESE PEOPLE! WE NEED TO--

I AM THE *BLACK WIDOW*. I *KNOW* WHAT I NEED TO DO. IT WILL BE EASIER IF YOU *REMAIN SILENT*, AND LET ME *CONCENTRATE*.

ATTACK HIM! *ATTACK HIM!*

DON'T YOU *UNDERSTAND?* THEY *WON'T* ATTACK ME. YOUR *FIFTEEN MINUTES* OF SOVEREIGNTY ARE *OVER.*

I AM NOT THEIR KING BECAUSE THEY ARE *MY PEOPLE*... I AM THEIR KING BECAUSE THEY *ARE* SIMPLY *MINE!*

ZZZTTKKAKKKKK

ARRHHHHH!

ZZZTTKKAKKKKK

ENOUGH!

OH...NO WORRIES, MY *SWEET* AND *BEAUTIFUL* SPY! NO *WORRIES!*

NOW THERE'S JUST *ONE LAST THING* THAT *NEEDS* TO BE DONE!

WELCOME TO MY FAMILY.

WHAT?

CEDRIC...JUST BECAUSE YOU TRIED TO *TAKE* MY MOLOIDS DOESN'T MEAN YOU DIDN'T HAVE A *GOOD IDEA.*

YOU WILL BE MY *LIEUTENANT,* AND I...WHO HAS *ALREADY* CONQUERED THE *GROUND*...WILL START REACHING FOR THE *SKIES.*

IN THE PAST, I USED MONSTERS TO FIGHT MY WARS, BUT CEDRIC HAS PROVEN HOW IT IS MORE EFFECTIVE TO USE A MULTITUDE OF SMALLER ATTACKS...CHIPPING AWAY, UNTIL THE BATTLE IS WON.

HARVEY... DON'T DO THIS. STORM AND I WILL HAVE TO--

OH, I *KNOW* THAT YOU FEEL LIKE YOU NEED TO *STOP* ME, BUT CONSIDER THIS...*ONLY* BY MY *BENEVOLENCE* WILL YOU BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE.

I AM YOUR *ONLY* CHANCE TO LEAVE THESE TUNNELS, TO FIND YOUR WAY TO THE *SURFACE* ONCE MORE.

WITHOUT A *GUIDE,* YOU ARE *LOST.*

LOST FOREVER.

WITH ONLY A *FEW HUNDRED* MOLOIDS, CEDRIC *STAGGERED* AN ENTIRE CRIME FAMILY, ONE THAT RULES A *SIGNIFICANT* PORTION OF *NEW YORK!*

BUT DO YOU KNOW *HOW MANY* MOLOIDS ARE WITHIN THESE DEPTHS? DO YOU GUESS *THOUSANDS? TENS* OF THOUSANDS?

YOU'D BE *FAR* SHORT. THERE ARE *MILLIONS* IN THESE TUNNELS. MILLIONS AND MILLIONS.

YOU, OF COURSE, ONLY NEED *ONE* OF THESE CREATURES IN ORDER TO GUIDE YOU BACK TO THE SURFACE.

I WILL USE THE OTHERS FOR MY *OWN* NEEDS. BUT YOU *WILL* SEE THEM AGAIN, I AM SURE.

WIDOW...I *CANNOT* BE *TRAPPED* WITHIN--

I KNOW, STORM. I *KNOW.*

WE'LL *GO.* WE HAVE NO *CHOICE.*

HARVEY... IF YOU--

HARVEY? I'M *NOT* HARVEY ELDER.

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? *HE* DIED YEARS AGO.

I'M THE *MOLE MAN.*

...END.